

myself. As things are now, I feel convinced that it will not become any duty to accept. They have no business to expect me to take command of a ship simply because the ship is sinking.

"Were I nominated under present conditions, it would mean that I should be broken down by a burden for which I was not in any way responsible, but which would have to be carried by the nominee who succeeded Taft; and, on the other hand, I would face the sullen resentment of the many respectable people with no special information or imagination, who would think that in some way or other I had been treacherous to Taft. Often when one does not like conditions it is nevertheless necessary to play the game through under the conditions, because they cannot be changed until the game is over without making things even worse. As I feel now, I would refuse the nomination if it were offered

Among the many friends who wrote to him at this time in regard to his future course was William Allen White of the *Emporia* (Kansas) *Gazette*. Mr. White said to him that he did not wish to see him run for President again if he "could possibly help it." In reply Roosevelt wrote, from Oyster Bay, on December 12, 1910:

"You have struck the real reason of my nervousness on the subject. Of course the Wall Street crowd, and my enemies generally, think I have been scheming to be President. As a matter of fact there is nothing that I want less. Indeed this is not putting it strong

enough. I feel
that I did good work as President because the
circumstances
were such as to make me in sympathy with
the men whom
I really cared to represent Now if I were
again made
President, it might be that the circumstances
would be such
that I could not do what was expected of me;
and in any
event I do not see how I could go out of the
Presidency
again with the credit I had when I left it this
time. More-
over I have led such an active and vigorous
life that I
begin to feel rather old and to appreciate
rest, now that I